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Part XI
Capital expenditures

Section 32
Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance

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* A summary of the approved programme budget will subsequently be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/62/6/Add.1).

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A. Overview

32.1 The present section contains resources related to capital expenditure projects, namely, alterations and improvements to, and major maintenance of, the principal properties of the United Nations worldwide, including modernization of existing buildings and technical installations. Capital expenditure resources are requested centrally under this section in order to ensure a coordinated and systematic approach to facilities management, major maintenance and construction. The staff and related costs for administration and management of the activities proposed in this section are included under the respective main sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 for New York, Vienna and Geneva and the regional commissions.

32.2 The criteria used to decide if a project is an alteration and improvement or major maintenance are if the project is a capital-intensive project of a structural nature that would substantially alter or improve the facilities or infrastructure, it is classified under alterations and improvements, while projects to repair or replace existing installations (the heating, ventilation, air conditioning, electrical, plumbing, carpentry, security systems, etc.) and to maintain the facilities in good working order are classified under major maintenance. Over time it has also been necessary to propose major information technology infrastructure projects, such as server upgrades and the enterprise network, to ensure that the overall framework of the information technology system is upgraded and replaced to keep up with modern technology and the demands of United Nations users. Alongside those projects, there have been security strengthening projects, which have included both information technology and physical infrastructure components. Those projects are classified as alterations and improvements. However, as technology changes, the replacement of existing installations often involves the introduction of new features and substantial improvement to the facility, thereby blurring the distinction between the two categories. Each proposed project is compared against the criteria and placed within the area that is considered most appropriate. Within the major maintenance component of the budget, many projects are recurrent so that buildings can be maintained in good working order, whereas the alterations and improvements tend to be one-off or multi-year projects.

32.3 The projects contained under the section relate to subprogramme 4, Support services, of programme 24, Management and central support services, of the biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009 (A/61/6/Rev.1). The overall objectives of the subprogramme are to provide effective and efficient planning, management, maintenance and operation for all existing physical facilities of the Organization and to provide common support for other mandated activities of the Organization. Expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement specifically related to the management of construction projects are included within the logical framework of the Office of Central Support Services and the administrative services at Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi and the regional commissions, as appropriate.

32.4 At Headquarters the projects proposed under this section are under the responsibility of the Office of Central Support Services. The administrative services at Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi and the regional commissions are responsible within their respective spheres for implementation of their projects under this section and the administration of related resources. The projects relating to safety and security of the United Nations premises in all main locations proposed in this section will be implemented in close coordination with the Department of Safety and Security. Faced with limited resources, the officers responsible for facility management prioritize the projects required at their sites, which explains that resources required under alterations and improvements and under major maintenance may vary from biennium to biennium. Each office is ultimately responsible for the quality and safety of United Nations premises.

32.5 In line with General Assembly resolution 52/220, the Office of Central Support Services will exercise its coordinating role in providing integrated and coordinated management policy and guidelines and technical assistance to locations outside of Headquarters in implementation of these projects. The Office of Central Support Services has designated an officer whose role is to supervise the overseas projects with an emphasis on management oversight of the larger projects, such as the construction of new facilities in the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Office at Nairobi. The Programme Planning and Budget Division also plays an oversight role in reviewing the budget submission from a financial standpoint, ensuring that resources are not requested for the same projects biennium after biennium. Justifications are requested for each project, including those that are proposed to be deferred or that are phased over several bienniums.

32.6 Major maintenance requirements vary with the age of the building, type of construction, climate and adequacy of regular maintenance programmes. Properties owned by the United Nations at Headquarters are over 50 years old and require more active intervention to prevent structural, functional and technical obsolescence. Further, with new technologies in communications, office automation and information management, modifications and alterations to the buildings have become necessary to accommodate the specialized requirements of those technologies. Similarly, new safety and environmental standards require the continuing renovation of existing buildings to meet modern standards in such areas as fire and earthquake safety, access for the disabled, interior air quality, asbestos abatement and safe handling of dangerous or toxic materials.

32.7 Historically, however, the management and maintenance of the facilities owned by the Organization have suffered from low levels of funding for programmes of preventive maintenance and repair. After a number of deferments, the cumulative effect leads to breakdowns, and inevitably a portion of the necessarily reduced budget allocation has to be redeployed from routine maintenance to unforeseen building repair emergencies. In addition, owing to the nature of capital improvement projects, a number of which require long lead times or summer season timetables, it sometimes proves difficult to complete approved alteration and improvement projects during the biennium in which appropriations are granted. This results in the further deferral of those projects to future bienniums.

32.8 In order to remedy the situation with regard to the physical condition of the facilities at Headquarters, the General Assembly, by its resolution 61/251, approved a capital master plan with construction expected to begin in 2008. However, at Headquarters, certain projects will still be required under alterations, improvement and major maintenance as some areas are in need of urgent repair and cannot wait, since their planned renovation under the capital master plan is still some years away, or they are not included in the scope of the capital master plan.

32.9 It will be recalled that in its resolution 59/276, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide a detailed proposal for a global operational framework for information and communication technology security, business continuity and disaster recovery, and in its resolution 60/266, the General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its resumed sixty-first session a comprehensive report on the proposed establishment of data centres for disaster recovery and business continuity in peacekeeping missions, as well as on a secondary active communications facility and a disaster recovery and business continuity centre for information technology. Following consideration of and decision by the General Assembly on the proposals and related resource requirements to be submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-first session, the costs for the biennium 2008-2009 would be incorporated as necessary in the budget appropriation at the time of adoption of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 in December 2007. Accordingly, the requirements relating to the proposal for an off-site data centre and secondary communications centre have not been included in the present proposals. The data centre and business continuity provisions proposed in the present section relate only to the on-site

data centres for Headquarters or offices away from Headquarters, and those form the on-site component of business continuity which are not related to the proposal for an off-site data centre and secondary communications centre.

32.10 The total provision under the present section amounts to $55,157,500, reflecting a decrease of $23,374,500, or a 29.8 per cent reduction, compared with the revised appropriation for the biennium 2006-2007. The decrease reflects mainly the discontinuation of: a one-time provision of $8,017,500 for the second phase of implementation of security-related construction projects at the United Nations Office at Geneva; a one-time provision of $4,074,900 for the new office facility at the Economic Commission for Africa; and a one-time provision of $8,083,100 for the first phase of the enterprise network project.

32.11 A number of the projects included in the present section for the biennium 2008-2009 had been approved previously by the General Assembly but are a continuation of previously approved multi-year projects or had to be deferred owing to competing construction priorities. Table 32.3 categorizes the projects proposed in this section under alterations and improvements and major maintenance as being multi-year phased projects, recurrent projects, projects deferred from prior periods or new projects. The proposals for the biennium 2008-2009, therefore, represent: (a) a continuing phase of a catch up programme, which is expected to continue into succeeding bienniums; and (b) those projects which have been considered the most essential to ensure the reliable and efficient operation of facilities and related infrastructures in support of substantive programmes.

32.12 In line with resolutions 57/304 and 58/270, and the objectives set out by the Secretary-General in his reports on strengthening the United Nations and on the information and communications technology strategy (see A/57/387 and Corr.1 and A/57/620), the Secretary-General has made proposals for investment in the information and communications technology infrastructure. A continuation of the enterprise network project is proposed, with resources of $3,500,000 included for two duty stations to upgrade their cabling infrastructure to support desktop videoconferencing, Internet protocol (IP) telephony, business continuity requirements and real-time connectivity to United Nations enterprise applications. As the recabling project is required in only two duty stations, the United Nations Office at Geneva and the United Nations Office at Nairobi, the implementation will be coordinated by the respective offices in close coordination with the Office of Central Support Services. In total, a provision of $18,992,500 for upgrading and improving technological and communications infrastructures at all main locations is included in this section, compared with a provision in the amount of $21,911,700 allocated for investment in technology in the biennium 2006-2007.

32.13 The estimated percentage distribution of resources under the present section is shown in table 32.1.

Table 32.1 **Distribution of resources by component**

(Percentage)

Component	*Regular budget*	*Extrabudgetary*
A. Alterations and improvements	60.1	—
B. Major maintenance	33.6	—
C. United Nations enterprise network	6.3	—
Total	**100.0**	—

Table 32.2 **Resource requirements by component**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Component	2004-2005 expenditure	2006-2007 appropriation	Resource growth		Total before recosting	Recosting	2008-2009 estimate
			Amount	Percentage			
A. Alterations and improvements							
1. Headquarters	32 874.3	19 822.7	(377.2)	(1.9)	19 445.5	1 264.5	20 710.0
2. Geneva	32 931.5	15 648.6	(11 637.6)	(74.4)	4 011.0	113.0	4 124.0
3. Vienna	1 922.9	1 879.1	1 311.6	69.8	3 190.7	116.0	3 306.7
4. Nairobi	8 252.3	3 083.1	(1 292.1)	(41.9)	1 791.0	298.0	2 089.0
5. ESCAP	2 725.9	2 133.7	(643.7)	(30.2)	1 490.0	103.0	1 593.0
6. ECLAC	2 425.3	1 704.2	(353.2)	(20.7)	1 351.0	82.4	1 433.4
7. ECA	4 674.6	6 441.8	(4 588.8)	(71.2)	1 853.0	308.2	2 161.2
Subtotal	**85 806.8**	**50 713.2**	**(17 581.0)**	**(34.7)**	**33 132.2**	**2 285.1**	**35 417.3**
B. Major maintenance							
1. Headquarters	8 933.1	8 634.6	43.8	0.5	8 678.4	564.3	9 242.7
2. Geneva	4 547.1	5 062.4	119.6	2.4	5 182.0	146.2	5 328.2
3. Vienna	682.2	798.4	101.9	12.8	900.3	32.7	933.0
4. Nairobi	1 514.4	1 926.7	(500.1)	(26.0)	1 426.6	237.4	1 664.0
5. ESCAP	1 341.8	1 484.2	75.8	5.1	1 560.0	107.9	1 667.9
6. ECLAC	333.6	537.1	(299.1)	(55.7)	238.0	14.4	252.4
7. ECA	548.5	1 292.3	(752.3)	(58.2)	540.0	89.7	629.7
Subtotal	**17 900.7**	**19 735.7**	**(1 210.4)**	**(6.1)**	**18 525.3**	**1 192.6**	**19 717.9**
C. United Nations enterprise network	—	8 083.1	(4 583.1)	(56.7)	3 500.0	227.6	3 727.6
Total	**103 707.5**	**78 532.0**	**(23 374.5)**	**(29.8)**	**55 157.5**	**3 705.3**	**58 862.8**

Table 32.3 **Status of projects proposed for the biennium 2008-2009**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	Headquarters	United Nations Office at Geneva	United Nations Office at Vienna	United Nations Office at Nairobi	ESCAP	ECLAC	ECA
A. Alterations/ improvements							
Projects deferred from prior period(s)	—	—	—	—	—	170.0	—
Multi-year phased projects	8 618.0	3 511.0	1 853.7	1 620.0	490.0	851.0	320.0
Recurrent projects	900.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
New projects for 2008-2009	9 927.5	500.0	1 337.0	171.0	1 000.0	330.0	1 533.0
Subtotal	**19 445.5**	**4 011.0**	**3 190.7**	**1 791.0**	**1 490.0**	**1 351.0**	**1 853.0**

	Headquarters	*United Nations Office at Geneva*	*United Nations Office at Vienna*	*United Nations Office at Nairobi*	*ESCAP*	*ECLAC*	*ECA*
B. Major maintenance							
Projects deferred from prior period(s)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Multi-year phased projects	—	3 380.0	—	—	813.0	—	—
Recurrent projects	6 723.0	715.0	900.3	1 426.6	130.0	123.0	540.0
New projects for 2008-2009	1 955.4	1 087.0	—	—	617.0	115.0	—
Subtotal	**8 678.4**	**5 182.0**	**900.3**	**1 426.6**	**1 560.0**	**238.0**	**540.0**
Subtotal A and B	**28 123.9**	**9 193.0**	**4 091.0**	**3 217.6**	**3 050.0**	**1 589.0**	**2 393.0**
C. United Nations enterprise network	—	3 000.0	—	500.0	—	—	—
Subtotal	**—**	**3 000.0**	**—**	**500.0**	**—**	**—**	**—**
Total	**28 123.9**	**12 193.0**	**4 091.0**	**3 717.6**	**3 050.0**	**1 589.0**	**2 393.0**

32.14 The above proposals should be seen in the context of the estimated value (excluding land) of United Nations-owned buildings based on the 2006 valuation, which is as follows:

(a) Headquarters: $770,696,000 (replacement value of the Headquarters complex);

(b) Geneva: $785,774,000;

(c) Vienna: $1,300,000,000 (the Vienna International Centre is the property of the Government of Austria);

(d) Nairobi: $62,766,600 (estimated value of the Gigiri complex);

(e) Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP): $87,281,000 (estimated value of the ESCAP complex);

(f) Economic and Social Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC): $39,140,000 (estimated value of the ECLAC complex);

(g) Economic Commission for Africa (ECA): $166,096,000 (estimated value of the ECA complex).

B. Alteration, improvement and major maintenance programmes

1. Headquarters

Resource requirements (before recosting): $28,123,900

32.15 The total provision of $28,123,900 at Headquarters consists of $19,445,500 for alteration and improvement, with approximately 50 per cent of the proposals being new projects, 45 per cent being multi-year phased projects and a small proportion (less than 5 per cent) being recurrent projects, and $8,678,400 for major maintenance projects, with approximately 75 per cent being recurrent projects and 25 per cent being new projects. This amount reflects a net decrease of

$333,400, or 1.2 per cent, compared with the revised appropriation for the biennium 2006-2007. The decrease for the Headquarters programme relates mainly to the discontinuation of the one-off provisions for safety and security projects in the 2006-2007 biennium ($3,000,000) and improvements to the public information facilities ($1,120,500) as well as a reduction in the amount for information technology infrastructure ($3,500,000), partly offset by the increase of $5,280,000 for the long-term feasibility study for office space (General Assembly resolution 60/282) and increased requirements of $2,230,000 for the major maintenance of the safety and security equipment. Within the total provision of $28,123,900, the amount of $13,270,900 relates to technological improvements and upgrades in technological infrastructure in the Office of Central Support Services, as compared with the amount of $13,090,800 allocated for the same purpose in the biennium 2006-2007. The provision of $13,270,900 would cover the requirements for upgrading existing operational systems within the Headquarters complex, such as the local area network (LAN), the storage area network (SAN) and Internet infrastructure as well as the maintenance for the Headquarters security system.

32.16 The provision for alterations and improvements amounting to $19,445,500 may be summarized as follows (in United States dollars):

(a)	Improvement of facilities and general infrastructure	7,480,000
(b)	Improvement of security and safety of the premises	3,134,200
(c)	Improvements to the information and communications technology infrastructure including LAN, SAN and Internet items	8,831,300
	Total	**19,445,500**

32.17 A provision of $8,678,400, reflecting an increase of $43,800, is proposed for major maintenance of the Headquarters premises. The provision would cover activities in the areas of: heating, ventilation, air conditioning and machine shop maintenance; electrical maintenance; plumbing maintenance; replacement of carpets; upholstery and draperies; carpentry; painting; safety and security related maintenance; asbestos abatement and environmental testing; structural and architectural maintenance; and general gardening and other urgent maintenance to ensure reliable and efficient operation of the facilities and safety and health of delegates, staff and visitors. The increase mainly reflects an increase in the security system maintenance offset by a reduction in requirements for maintenance at the Secretary-General's residence and asbestos abatement and testing.

2. United Nations Office at Geneva

Resource requirements (before recosting): $9,193,000

32.18 The total provision of $9,193,000 at the United Nations Office at Geneva consists of $4,011,000 for alteration and improvement, with approximately 88 per cent being multi-year phased projects and 12 per cent being new projects, and $5,182,000 for major maintenance projects, with approximately 65 per cent being multi-year phased projects, 14 per cent being recurrent projects and 21 per cent being new projects. This amount reflects a decrease of $11,518,000, or 55.6 per cent, compared with the revised appropriation for the biennium 2006-2007. The decrease mainly reflects the deletion of one-time provisions of $8,017,500 for the second phase of the security projects approved by the General Assembly for 2006-2007 in its resolution 59/276 and $1,063,600 for technological improvements of the printing plant in the Conference Services Division at the United Nations Office at Geneva.

32.19 The provision for alterations and improvements amounting to $4,011,000 may be summarized as follows (in United States dollars):

(a)	Improvement of conference facilities and related infrastructure	2,611,000
(b)	Improvement to the information and communications technology infrastructure, including the metropolitan area network of the United Nations Office at Geneva, SAN and uninterruptible power supply for the existing on-site data centre	1,400,000
	Total	**4,011,000**

32.20 A provision of $5,182,000 for major maintenance, reflecting an increase of $119,600, is proposed for the premises of the United Nations Office at Geneva. The provision would cover activities in the areas of heating, ventilation, the air conditioning and machine shop, electrical maintenance, plumbing maintenance, structural and architectural maintenance, including major roof repairs and waterproofing, masonry works, replacement of elevators and general gardening and other urgent maintenance to ensure reliable and efficient operation of the facilities and safety of delegates, staff and visitors. The increase reflects resources required for the major roof repair project.

3. United Nations Office at Vienna

Resource requirements (before recosting): $4,091,000

32.21 The total provision of $4,091,000 includes $3,190,700 for alterations and improvements, with approximately 58 per cent being multi-year phased projects and 42 per cent being new projects, and $900,300 for major maintenance entirely for recurrent projects. The resources requested represent the share of the United Nations Office at Vienna of the cost of improving and maintaining the Vienna International Centre, which is managed by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization on a cost-shared basis through an agreement between the organizations based in the Vienna International Centre and the host Government (as regards major maintenance projects), and includes a contribution of $117,700 (100,000 euros) for the United Nations regular budget share for the new conference centre that is under construction as noted by the Secretary-General in his report on the construction of additional conference facilities at the Vienna International Centre (A/61/166). The provisions under alterations and improvements relate to the following costs: continuation of replacement of carpets on various floors of the Vienna International Centre complex after the staged implementation of asbestos removal, which is currently in progress; modification of the premises to improve the utilization of space and adapt it to meet the most recent requirements; replacement of light fixtures; and replacement of the cabling systems. The proposal also includes a provision for a one-off project to create a second data centre for the premises. A space has been identified in the basement of the new conference building, and the host country has agreed to construct this area; however, the United Nations Office at Vienna would be responsible for all other necessary work, including separation walls, air conditioning, ventilation, fibre and network cable and security systems. The container that currently houses the temporary data centre will be moved from the premises by the end of 2008.

32.22 The provision for alterations and improvements amounting to $3,190,700 may be summarized as follows (in United States dollars):

(a)	Improvement of facilities and general infrastructure	1,853,700
(b)	Improvements to the information and communications technology infrastructure for a backup data centre	1,337,000
	Total	**3,190,700**

32.23 A provision of $900,300 for major maintenance is proposed for the United Nations Office at Vienna. The provision under major maintenance includes: heating, ventilation, air conditioning and machine shop maintenance; maintenance of the external facades of the buildings; maintenance of the document conveyor system; electrical and plumbing maintenance; and general gardening and other urgent maintenance.

4. United Nations Office at Nairobi

Resource requirements (before recosting): $3,217,600

32.24 The total provision of $3,217,600 consists of $1,791,000 for alterations and improvements, with approximately 90 per cent being multi-year phased projects and 10 per cent being new projects, and $1,426,600 for major maintenance entirely for recurrent projects. The total provision reflects an overall decrease of $1,792,200, or 35.8 per cent, as compared with the revised appropriation for the biennium 2006-2007. The decrease relates mainly to the removal of one-off provisions for an automated sprinkler system for the grounds and the overhaul and reconfiguration of parking lots, and a reduction in the amount for major maintenance. Within the total proposed provision of $3,217,600, an amount of $171,000 relates to improvements to the security and safety installations. The improvements relate particularly to security doors and controls in the new open office areas. The provision for alterations and improvements includes the continuation of the multi-year project to renovate interior offices, the implementation of environmental initiatives identified through the environmental management system, the continuation of the multi-year project to renovate all food services spaces, the conversion of the former commissary into usable office space and the installation of security doors and control system in the new open office area.

32.25 The provision for alterations and improvements amounting to $1,791,000 may be summarized as follows (in United States dollars):

(a)	Improvement of facilities and general infrastructure	1,620,000
(b)	Improvement of security and safety of the premises	171,000
	Total	**1,791,000**

32.26 The resources proposed for major maintenance ($1,426,600) would cover activities in the areas of: ventilation, air conditioning and electrical maintenance; structural and architectural maintenance, including upgrading of facilities that contain the telephone and data equipment; gardening; conference service equipment maintenance; and other urgent maintenance to ensure the reliable and efficient operation of the facilities and the safety and health of delegates, staff and visitors.

5. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Resource requirements (before recosting): $3,050,000

32.27 The total provision of $3,050,000 consists of $1,490,000 for alterations and improvements, with approximately 33 per cent being multi-year phased projects and 67 per cent being new projects, and $1,560,000 for major maintenance, with approximately 52 per cent being multi-year phased projects, 40 per cent being new projects and 8 per cent being recurrent projects. The amount reflects a net decrease of $567,900, or 15.7 per cent, compared with the revised appropriation for the biennium 2006-2007. The decrease relates mainly to the discontinuation of one-off provisions for improvements in technological infrastructure ($435,000) and requirements relating to the continuation of the upgrading of the work environment and improved space utilization ($150,000). In the biennium 2008-2009, further improvements to the security and safety installations are proposed. The improvements relate to the continued upgrade of fire safety systems to comply with international fire code standards. The requirements, in the amount of $400,000, are the second phase of the usual alteration and improvement programme to upgrade technical security-related installations as they become obsolete. Further, an amount of $190,000 relates to the upgrading of the information technology systems, including upgrades to enhance the reliability and security of the ESCAP LAN and WAN systems, and expansion of the wireless network on the ESCAP campus to provide full coverage for the whole campus and the United Nations Conference Centre.

32.28 The provision for alterations and improvements amounting to $1,490,000 may be summarized as follows (in United States dollars):

(a)	Improvement of facilities and general infrastructure	600,000
(b)	Improvement of conference facilities and related infrastructure	300,000
(c)	Improvement of security and safety of the premises	400,000
(d)	Improvements to the information and communications technology infrastructure, including the LAN and WAN and the wireless network	190,000
	Total	**1,490,000**

32.29 A provision of $1,560,000 for major maintenance, reflecting an increase of $75,800, would cover activities in the areas of electrical, ventilation and air conditioning maintenance, including a major upgrade of the existing reticulation panels; carpets; maintenance of upholstery and draperies, structural and architectural maintenance, including improvement of the lift lobby areas; and general and other urgent maintenance to ensure the reliable and efficient operation of the facilities and the safety of delegates, staff and visitors. The increase relates to electrical maintenance owing to the necessary replacement of the existing electrical reticulation panels that are at the end of their serviceable life.

6. Economic and Social Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Resource requirements (before recosting): $1,589,000

32.30 The total provision of $1,589,000 consists of $1,351,000 for alterations and improvements, with approximately 12 per cent being for a deferred project, 63 per cent being multi-year phased projects, and 25 per cent being new projects, and $238,000 for major maintenance, with approximately 52 per cent being recurrent projects and 48 per cent being new projects. This

amount reflects a decrease of $652,300, or 29.1 per cent, compared with the revised appropriation for the biennium 2006-2007. The decrease relates mainly to the discontinuation of one-off provisions for improvements in office facilities ($535,000) and changes to compound installations to make them accessible to persons with disabilities ($100,000). Further improvements to the security and safety installations, estimated at $180,000, are proposed in the biennium 2008-2009 for the regular upgrading of existing installations. The improvements cover the emergency exits, fire hose system and the security booth of the North Gate as well as construction of a perimeter fence owing to the construction of a residential complex nearby and the construction of a path along the new fence for patrols.

32.31 The provision for alterations and improvements of $1,351,000 may be summarized as follows (in United States dollars):

(a)	Improvement of facilities and general infrastructure	1,021,000
(b)	Improvement of security and safety of the premises	180,000
(c)	Improvement of information and communications technology infrastructure and installation of a backup generator for the computer centre	150,000
	Total	**1,351,000**

32.32 A provision of $238,000 for major maintenance, reflecting a decrease of $299,100, is proposed for major maintenance. This amount would cover maintenance activities in the areas of electrical, ventilation and air conditioning maintenance and other general maintenance, including the replacement of three main diesel tanks, to ensure the reliable and efficient operation of the facilities and the safety of delegates, staff and visitors. The decrease is due to the reduced requirements for structural and architectural maintenance.

7. Economic Commission for Africa

Resource requirements (before recosting): $2,393,000

32.33 The total provision of $2,393,000 would consist of $1,853,000 for alteration and improvements, with approximately 17 per cent being multi-year phased projects and 83 per cent being new projects and $540,000 for major maintenance, entirely for recurrent projects. This amount reflects a decrease of $5,341,100, or 69 per cent, compared with the revised appropriation for the biennium 2006-2007. The decrease relates mainly to the discontinuation of a one-time provision of $4,074,900 for the new office facility at ECA and the one-time provision for conference facilities improvement ($607,200) as well as in major maintenance. The status of the construction of new conference facilities at ECA will continue to be provided in a separate report to the General Assembly.

32.34 The provision for alterations and improvements amounting to $1,853,000 may be summarized as follows (in United States dollars):

(a)	Improvement of facilities and general infrastructure	578,000
(b)	Improvement of security and safety of the premises, including the amalgamation of security rooms	175,000
(c)	Improvement of the information and communications technology infrastructure, including PABX and network infrastructure for the new office facility	1,100,000
	Total	**1,853,000**

32.35 A provision of $540,000 for major maintenance, reflecting a decrease of $752,300, would cover activities in the areas of electrical, ventilation and air conditioning maintenance, general maintenance at the subregional offices and other general maintenance, including replacement of the Conference Centre hot/cold water reservoir and structural and architectural maintenance, including renovation of the facades of some of the older buildings owing to deterioration in order to ensure the reliable and efficient operation of the facilities and the safety of delegates, staff and visitors. The decrease relates particularly to electrical major maintenance projects.

C. United Nations enterprise network

32.36 The network infrastructure of the United Nations regional headquarters and regional commissions underwent a major upgrade in the biennium 2006-2007 to support desktop videoconferencing, IP telephony, business continuity requirements and real-time connectivity to United Nations enterprise applications, such as IMIS, and future systems related to the sharing of security-related information. This major upgrade was coordinated by the Information Technology Services Division in New York with the procurement of standardized switchers and routers undertaken centrally to achieve bulk discounts and the equipment being installed at each duty station to bring those networks up to the standard of Headquarters. Some offices had a lower level of network quality, and heavier investment was made in those offices to ensure a standardized quality network to allow more robust and faster communication between offices. The project has been implemented according to the time schedule except for ESCWA, which experienced delays owing to the crisis in Lebanon. For the second phase, it is necessary that two centres recable all or part of their offices to enable the infrastructure to support the desktop videoconferencing and IP telephony components. Resources are proposed for the United Nations Office at Geneva ($3,000,000) and the United Nations Office at Nairobi ($500,000). The resources necessary for further implementation at all offices of the IP telephony and desktop videoconferencing component would be submitted as necessary in the context of subsequent biennial budgets.